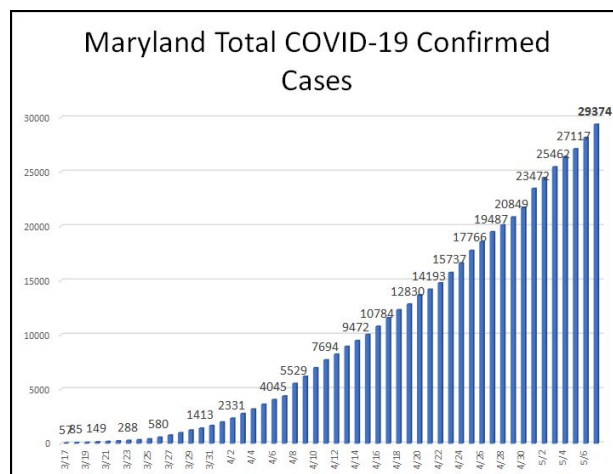
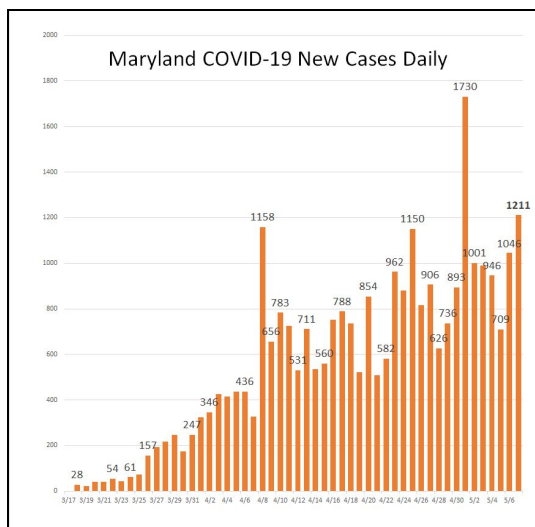
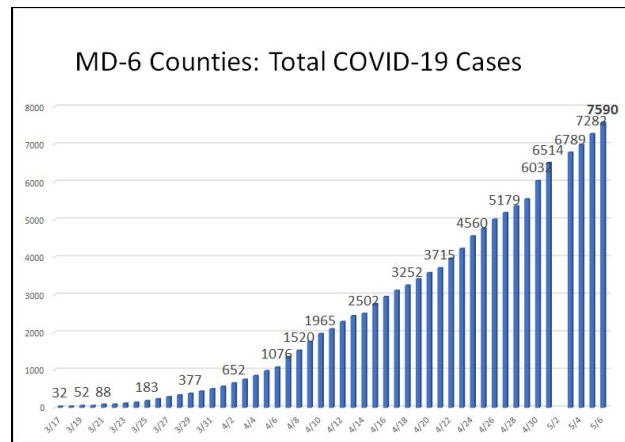
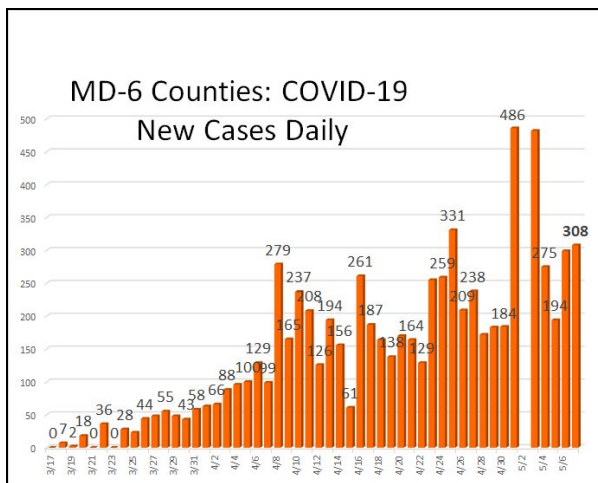
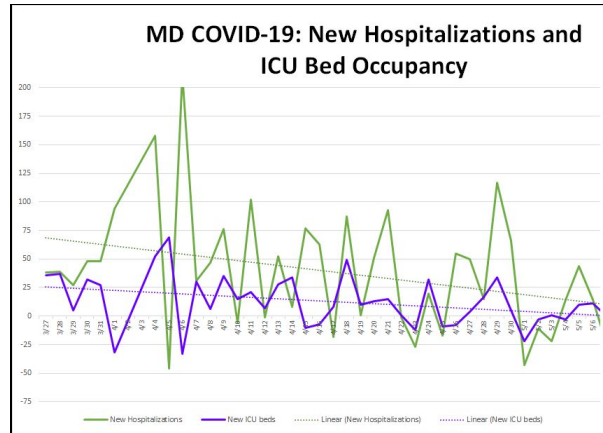
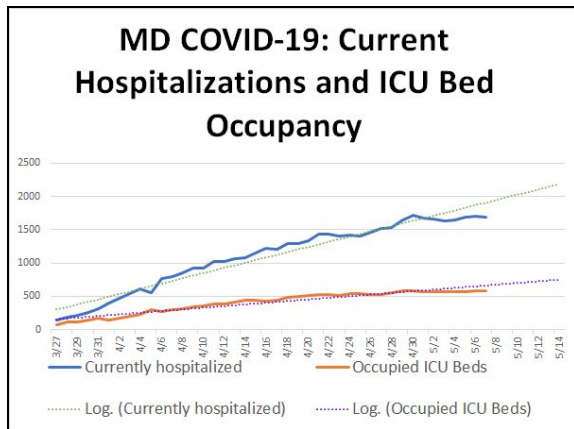


Daily Coronavirus Update: May 7, 5 PM Congressman David Trone (MD6)

Stats @ 5 PM

With increased testing capacity coming online in Maryland, Governor Larry Hogan will track trends in **hospitalizations** and **ICU beds** for indicators on when to initiate plans to reopen the state.



MD6 today: MoCo (6032), Fred.(1,151), Wash.(260), Allegany (143), Garrett (4). MD reports 1,401 total deaths ([MD Dept. of Health](#)).

As of 5 PM today, the United States had recorded 1,252,911 total confirmed cases and 75,447 deaths due to Coronavirus ([JHU](#)).

Federal Updates

- A member of the US Navy who serves as one of President Donald Trump's personal valets has tested positive for coronavirus, as reported by [CNN](#). Valets are members of an elite military unit dedicated to the White House and often work very close to the President and first family. In a statement, the White House confirmed CNN's reporting that one of the President's staffers had tested positive. Trump was upset when he was informed Wednesday that the valet had tested positive, a source told CNN, and the President was subsequently tested again by the White House physician.
- [The Associated Press](#) reports that the Trump administration has “shelved” a 17-page report by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) written to help faith leaders, business owners, educators and state and local officials as they begin to reopen. Titled “Guidance for Implementing the Opening Up America Again Framework,” it was supposed to be published last Friday, but agency scientists were told the guidance “would never see the light of day,” according to a CDC official. The official was not authorized to talk to reporters and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity. The AP obtained a copy from a second federal official who was not authorized to release it. The guidance was described in AP stories last week. Traditionally, CDC’s role has been to give public and local officials guidance and science-based information during public health crises.

Maryland Updates

- The Maryland Department of Health is fining the Sagepoint Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in La Plata \$10,000 a day dating back to March 30 for “widespread deficiencies” in testing and jeopardizing the health and safety of its residents, as reported by [The Baltimore Sun](#). At least 34 residents and one staff member at the home have died of COVID-19, and 97 residents and 32 employees have tested positive. Maryland data attributes 60 percent of COVID-19 deaths in the state to nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- Citing the sudden and unprecedented economic turmoil caused by COVID-19, Governor Larry Hogan today [announced vetoes](#) on nearly two dozen bills passed in the state legislature this year. “The economic fallout from this pandemic simply makes it impossible to fund any new programs, impose any new tax hikes, nor adopt any legislation having any significant fiscal impact, regardless of the merits of the legislation.”

District Updates

- Montgomery County
 - a. Montgomery County Recreation facilities will remain closed until further notice. The news comes after Gov. Larry Hogan announced Wednesday some outdoor activities will resume Thursday morning. Hogan’s executive order includes the reopening of state beaches, parks, and playgrounds at the discretion of local governments. Although residents are allowed to utilize certain outdoor areas surrounding county recreation centers, all playgrounds will remain off limits. Recreation Director Robin Riley issued a statement saying the department is preparing for its reopening.
 - b. Unemployment claims in Montgomery County topped 11,000 last week, according to the Maryland Department of Labor. That is double the 5,615 claims filed during the week that ended on April 25. However, the numbers actually are grimmer. Starting last week, the Department of Labor began reporting claims that were filed through the federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistant (PUA) and the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). Those two funds are part of the federal stimulus bill. During the week ending May 2, 7,860 county residents filed a claim through PUA and 249 filed through the PEUC. Combining all three categories, 19,183 county residents applied for unemployment during the week that ended May 2.
 - c. As of Thursday morning, the Maryland Department of Health reports 6,032 cases of COVID-19 in Montgomery County, which is an increase of 242 cases from the 5,790 reported Wednesday. The

health department reports that 315 county residents have died from COVID-19 in Montgomery County. This is an increase of 11 deaths since Wednesday. The number of probable deaths is 30. There are 1,512 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in residents and staff of senior living facilities and 217 deaths in the county.

- Frederick County

- a. Employees in the county's Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management have developed a prototype ultraviolet decontamination unit that will sanitize N95 masks for Frederick Health Hospital, county health care workers and first responders. The unit was developed in three weeks, and was made with ultraviolet bulbs, ballasts, sockets and other materials readily available in the county's inventory, according to a news release. The machine uses ultraviolet C light to "disrupt" the DNA within viruses and microorganisms on the mask, making them inactive, according to the release. The machine can decontaminate up to 84 of the much needed N95 masks every hour. County staff worked with bioengineering professor Dr. Amy E. Herr of the University of California Berkeley and her colleagues for suggestions on creating the unit, the release noted.

- Washington County

- a. The Western Maryland delegation and county commissioners in the region, including the Washington County Board of Commissioners, are asking Gov. Larry Hogan to take a regional approach to reopening Maryland's economy. In a letter to Hogan dated Tuesday, the representatives said infection and hospitalization rates differ greatly in different parts of the state. After noting the proximity of Washington, Allegany and Garrett counties to West Virginia and Pennsylvania, the group said West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice has already issued an order replacing that state's stay-at-home policy with a "safer at home" policy.
- b. Antietam Broadband is extending its FCC Keep Americans Connected pledge through June 30. More than 700 media companies made the pledge to support residential and small business customers during the novel coronavirus pandemic by waiving late fees and not terminating service because of an inability to pay. Participants also agreed to open up all WiFi hotspots to increase broadband connectivity, according to a news release from Antietam.
- c. Nearly 20 volunteer fire and EMS companies in Washington County are participating in safety rides around their communities Saturday afternoon to show their appreciation for folks staying home during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event, planned by the Cumberland Valley Volunteer Firemen's Association, also gives residents a chance to show their appreciation for emergency responders by waving as they drive by or posting signs in their windows, organizers said.
- d. Washington County Public Schools students next month will be able to pick up their belongings left at school since March as school system officials react a day after Wednesday's announcement that Maryland schools will remain closed the rest of the academic year due to COVID-19. "WCPS understands there will be many mixed emotions and questions following this announcement," says a post from the district on Superintendent Boyd Michael's Facebook page. "Our staff misses students, students miss their friends and their teachers, and the list goes on. There is a shared desire among our learning community to simply get 'back to normal.'

- Allegany County

- a. Elected officials from Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties have asked Gov. Larry Hogan to consider a regional approach to reopening Maryland to help rural areas less impacted by COVID-19 regain a sense of normalcy. Nineteen elected officials signed the letter dated May 5 to Hogan that said, "In part because of the actions of our neighboring states and in part because of the meaningful differences in the spread of infection and impact of COVID-19 in our diverse Maryland regions, we ask you to consider the reopening of Maryland on a regional basis.' Rural areas are "appropriate candidates for regional reopening," according to the letter.

- Garrett County

- a. No new updates.